



417TH BASE SUPPORT BATTALION

December 2003 Newsletter

Providing support and services to the communities of Giebelstadt, Kitzingen and Wuerzburg

AFAP offers avenue to address issues

By Larry Reilly
Public Affairs Office

If there is an issue you believe needs to be addressed, but you aren't sure just who to ask, then write down the issue and submit it to the upcoming Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) symposium.

The 417th Base Support Battalion will host the 2004 AFAP symposium Jan. 14-15, 2004 at the Cantigny Club on Leighton Barracks, and the one thing that will ensure a successful symposium is submission of a lot of issues.

"We currently have an e-mail address people can use to submit an AFAP issue or they can pick up an issue form at the community mail rooms, the Army Community Service office, or at the ICAS offices," said Sonia Patton, 417th BSB, Army Community Services, AFAP coordinator.

"The e-mail address is: 417AFAP@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil."

The AFAP symposium has been an annual opportunity for people to address issues of concern to them and their community since AFAP was established in 1984.

"There has never been an issue too small or too large that has not received the same amount of attention at the symposium," said Patton. "Very specific to our community is the Bereavement Leave policy which was submitted as an AFAP issue last year and is being reviewed by the Department of the Army, General Officer Steering Committee."

"There are many examples of issues that were addressed during past AFAP symposiums and went on to become a

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Santa pays early visit

Jami Shawley and her son, Nicholas, react to their encounter with Santa and Mrs. Claus during the Kitzingen Christmas tree lighting ceremony held on Harvey Barracks Dec. 6. For more information and pictures of the three tree lighting ceremonies in the 417th BSB, see page 7.

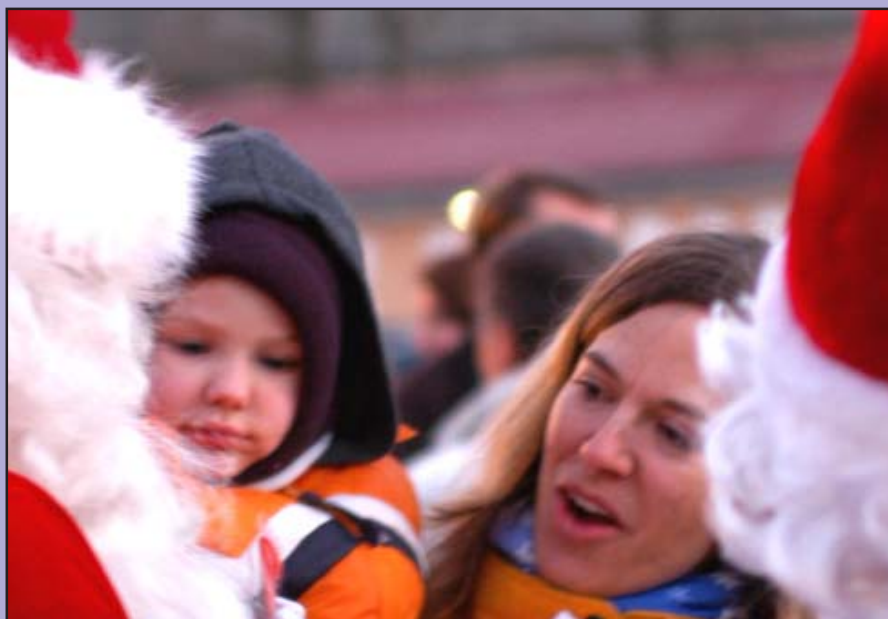


Photo by Larry Reilly

Looking between the pages

Giebelstadt unit participates in Germany's Remembrance Day activities.

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Dozens of runners hit the Kloster Forest trails during annual Turkey Trot.

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Volunteers receive recognition for dedication to 417th BSB communities.

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Commander's Comments

Community prepares for upcoming deployment

Happy Holidays to everyone and thanks for all you do to make ours such a wonderful community.

The more places I visit and the more I see, the more convinced I am that we live in the best community in USAREUR. I attribute that to our dedicated employees, volunteers who give so much of themselves, and tremendous German/American relations throughout our community.

We recently selected the volunteer of the quarter from a host of nominees sent in by the units and agencies. From that list of volunteers, you selected Denitra Bland as the community Volunteer of the Quarter—congratulations Denitra. I must say that all of the nominees were impressive, so my thanks go out to all of you. I can also name off the top of my head many of you who give so much—especially those of you who have spouses deployed, but continue to contribute to the community. We can not thank you enough.

Daily I encounter rumors without merit so I will try to address some of them here.

The overseas basing decision some were speculating would come by December doesn't appear to be imminent. Secretary Rumsfeld said during a press conference at Fort Carson, Colorado about a month ago that it may be years before any decision is made. And any decision will only be made after consultation with other Federal agencies and our Allies.

Additionally, he is unable to speculate to what extent—if any—our forces will change overseas. General Jones made similar comments at a press con-



Lt. Col. Thomas H. Fass

ference a short time after Secretary Rumsfeld. He went on to characterize the changes overseas as “evolutionary” vice “revolutionary.” For those of us living and working here in Germany, I believe that we should not focus on the overseas basing decision since there are so many factors in play that

With the deployment of 1st ID, there will not be any decrease in services to the community.

it's impossible to speculate what, if anything, will happen. Rather, we should focus on continuing to improve our quality of life here in our communities. The 417th BSB is committed to that vision.

With the deployment of 1st ID, there will not be any decrease in services to the community. If anything, the Command is pushing for the community to provide additional services. The Yellow Ribbon Room at Leighton serves as an example of the Command's com-

mitment to the Community. At the Wurzburg Town Hall it was mentioned that 1st ID MPs will deploy. In their place though, the 212th MP Company based in Kitzingen will assume the Wurzburg mission. Where we are losing soldier support such as in our dining facilities, community mail rooms and gyms, we are looking to hire civilian employees to backfill the loss in soldier support. Funding to support these initiatives comes from the GWOT funds available to the Army. AAFES is also looking to hire an additional 30-40 personnel. So we continue to improve our support!

For families considering departing USAREUR while your spouse is deployed, I encourage you to talk with family members from 12th Aviation Brigade and 147th Maintenance Company who have stayed in the community. By-in-large, most of them did stay. I can honestly say that I have not met anyone who regretted staying.

What they tell me is that they are convinced they made the right decision by staying in the community and becoming involved. Some did go home for a couple of weeks during the summer months. But they were all back in time for school. If you would like to speak with a family member who remained in the community, please contact our ACS office at Leighton. Matter of fact, many of our ACS employees have spouses who are currently deployed.

In closing, I wish happy holidays to all of you. Please be safe and let's continue to watch out for one another.

God Bless You!

417TH BASE SUPPORT BATTALION

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Articles, photographs and other contribu-

tions are welcome. The editor reserves the right to make changes to all material submitted. The submission deadline is the 15th day of the preceding month.

Submissions can be e-mailed to Lawrence.Reilly@cmty@mail.98ASG.army.mil For more information, call DSN 355-8575/1600 or (09321) 3058575. Fax 355-8914.



Giebelstadt unit participates in Remembrance Day ceremony to honor Germany's fallen heros

By Pfc. Michael J. Taylor
69th ADA Public Affairs Office

Soldiers from the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade participated in a Remembrance Day ceremony in the

town of Sulzdorf Nov. 16 as a display of solidarity with the German community.

A color guard and a platoon of soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 69th ADA Brigade

participated in a parade with various civic groups of the local community. The parade began at the Sulzdorf cemetery and ended at the veterans' memorial near the city's church.

A ceremony was held at the memorial to honor Germany's veterans. Burgermeister, Paul Merklein, Mayor of Giebelstadt, gave a short speech to the audience and paid his respects to the many fallen veterans in which the memorial honors.

The 69th ADA Brigade commander, Col. R. Kirk Lawrence attended and participated in the event by saluting and paying tribute to the memorial as a local band played memorial-themed music.

"Times have changed since Germany and the United States first met," said SPC Aviaser Vidot, HHD, 69th ADA. "It's good to know that we can work together, support one another and break down any invisible barriers, which may have once held two countries apart."



Sergeant Alfredo Munoz, left, and Sgt. Demestrius Cuttino, HHD, 69th ADA Brigade stand guard over the German Veteran's Memorial in Sulzdorf during memorial services Nov. 16.

Photo by Michael Taylor

AFAP

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success story," said Patton, but our focus is to get new issues to the right people, and that can only be done at

the grass root level. The two-day AFAP symposium in January is our grass roots level."

The January symposium offers an opportunity to address issues at the grass root

level, and issues requiring a higher level of authority will be forwarded to the 98th Area Support Group.

"The 417th BSB will forward its top issues to the 98th Area Support Group level and further, where the issues will be discussed along with other top issues at the various levels," said Patton.

The AFAP process has had an immediate impact on how the Army does business. AFAP's fiscal year 2003 track record includes 82 changes to legislation, 130 policies revised or established and 140 improvements to Army programs or services which all resulted from issues addressed at AFAP symposiums Army wide. For

those who don't necessarily have an issue to contribute, you can be instrumental in the AFAP process just by giving of your time.

"There will be a big need for volunteers during the two-day symposium; as we will need delegates, facilitators, and recorders," said Markquetta Jackson-Langford, Army Family Team Building program coordinator, ACS. "We need issues from single soldiers just as much as from family members and encourage them to share their concerns before and during the symposium."

For more information on the AFAP symposium, call the 417th BSB ACS office at 350-7103 or (0931) 889-7103.

Cochnauer assumes duties as the battalion executive officer

On Dec. 1, Dexter Cochnauer assumed the duties and responsibilities of the 417th Base Support Battalion's executive officer. Prior to coming to the BSB, Cochnauer was the Director of Personnel and Community Activities for the 98th Area Support Group. Prior to that, he was the 235th BSB, Executive Officer. He replaced Ann Cantrell, who is retiring.





The runners get a head start on the clock during the annual 417th BSB Turkey Trot Nov. 22 at Kloster Forest, outside Harvey Barracks. The winners received a trophy and turkey for their efforts.

Photos by Larry Reilly

Dozens gooble up Turkey Trot

Damp and cold temperatures didn't deter more than 150 diehard runners from participating in the 417th Base Support Battalion's annual Turkey Trot on Nov. 22 in the Kloster Forest Training Area

just outside of Harvey Barracks in Kitzingen.

The first-place winners in the various age and gender categories not only took home a trophy, but also took home the main ingredient of most everyone's Thanksgiving meal, the turkey.

However, winning wasn't a walk in the park.

"The Turkey Trot was very challenging. Though the route started and ended on a paved road, a lot of the 10 Kilometer course that I ran was on a muddy trail," said Henry Robinson, who took first place in the male 14 years or younger category. "Winning a trophy was nice, but taking home a turkey really made my dad happy."



Perhaps the youngest registered runner, three-year-old Margaret Hatzembuhler, receives her card from Paul Lebella as she crosses the finish line after completing the 5 KM course.



The overall winner in the 10 KM route, Stephan Schuppel, receives a numbered card from Paul Lebella after finishing with a time of 35.40.



The winners of the various age and gender categories pose with their trophies and turkeys after the Nov. 22 Turkey Trot outside of Harvey Barracks.



D'netra Bland earns 417th BSB Volunteer of the Quarter honors

D'netra Bland can often be found volunteering her time in a variety of activities and agencies in the Wuerzburg community from the chapel, to the Army Community Service, to the schools and the scouts.

D'netra is a past and present member of the Wuerzburg Community Spouses Club and the Protestant Women of the Chapel for Leighton Barracks.

She also served as a Girl Scout Leader helping teach young adults important life skills and how to become a better person. As the Wuerzburg Element-

tary School Parent/Teacher Association Second Vice President and a volunteer with WES Ways and Means, she has helped with the Secret Santa Shop, school store, fall fest and the book fair events.

She serves as a substitute teacher and has become a cornerstone in the school's store and book fairs. She has served as the Outreach Coordinator for the Leighton Chapel Protestant Women of the Chapel and this year is the agency's president, where she plans, directs and coordinates activities for



the PWOC. D'netra Bland is married to Maurice Bland, HHC, 101st Military Intelligence, Battalion.

417th BSB Distinguished Volunteers of the Quarter



Cynthia Holland helps out at her husband's unit aid station as a registered nurse and helps conduct blood and bone marrow drives with the American Red Cross.

She is the battalion's Family Readiness Group Leader and actively participates in the scheduling and organizing of events. Cynthia is active in the Kitzingen Protestant Women of the Chapel and the Community Spouses Club.

She also teaches other family members through the Army Family Team Building (AFTB) process.

Cynthia is married to Dustin L. Holland, Delta Battery, 4-3 Air Defense Artillery.



Patricia Nevarez is a familiar face in the American Red Cross Office on Leighton Barracks, where she volunteered as the records chair, special events coordinator and caseworker.

Patricia puts in many hours diligently streamlining the Red Cross records department.

Her additional projects have included contacting new volunteers as a follow-up to their first month of volunteering developing a tracking system to recognize volunteers who have earned their 20-hour pins.

Patricia is married to Curtis Nevarez, 69th Signal Battalion.



Robbin Strobel can often be found in the Wuerzburg Thrift Shop on Leighton Barracks or involved in the various activities of the Catholic Chapel or the many events of the G-4, 1st ID Family Readiness Group and community spouse club.

She manages the daily operations of the Wuerzburg Thrift Shop, where her volunteer hours often keep her well beyond the operating hours of the shop.

She is very active in the Wuerzburg Spouses Community Club and the Wuerzburg Catholic Chapel.

Patricia is married to Lawrence Strobel, HHC, 1st Infantry Division.



Katharine H. Woodside is a Family Readiness Group leader and strong motivator as an Army Family Team Builder instructor.

She serves as the primary interface between family members and the commander gathering and disseminating all pertinent community and unit information to unit families.

As an AFTB instructor, she taught three separate courses in all three levels and ensured family members new to the community were better educated and more at ease with their community.

She is married to Stephen Woodside, HHC, 3-58th Aviation Regiment.



Soldiers share Thanksgiving with family, friends

By Pfc. Michael J. Taylor
69th ADA Public Affairs Office

As the community of Giebelstadt came together to celebrate Thanksgiving Day, the leadership of the 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and the 12th Aviation Brigade did not forget who keeps our Army strong.

The meal was a traditional dining facility Thanksgiving dinner with officers in dress blues showing thanks to their fellow soldiers and family members for their hard work by serving from the food line.

"Due to the fact that they usually celebrate Thanksgiving at home, it was the first time in which many of the families with deployed spouses were able to witness this event," said Shomari C. Erwin, whose husband is deployed.

"Last year the dining facility fed 367 people. This year there was a larger turnout for the dinner. 439 people were fed, which were mostly the families who didn't cook due to their spouses being deployed," said Sgt. 1st Class Stephen R. Inman, dining facility manager, 12th Aviation Brigade.

The cooks prepared a large assortment of food, from roast, ham and turkey to shrimp, fish and crab legs,

to hamburgers, hotdogs and french-fries.

"I am totally satisfied. If I eat anything else, then somebody will have to wheel me out of here," said Albert T. Denham, 417th Base Support Battalion. "You can tell that a lot of effort went into making everything as close to home as possible."

The 69th ADA BDE also invited some guests from the German community

to join the dinner and see how Americans celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

Maj. Gen. Gary D. Speer, U.S. Army Europe Operations (G3) celebrated Thanksgiving with the Giebelstadt Army community. After he entered the dining facility he immediately began greeting the soldiers and family members and thanked them for the great job they are doing.



The 69th Air Defense Artillery Brigade and the 12th Aviation Brigade officers donned their Dress Blue uniforms and served the Thanksgiving meal at the Giebelstadt Army Airfield dining facility. *Photo by Michael Taylor*

Students share Thanksgiving food, cheer with German class



Alyce Smith's third grade students from the Kitzingen American Elementary School on Marshall Heights invited their peers from the Kitzingen German Elementary School to enjoy a Thanksgiving celebration on Nov. 26. For more than two hours, the students and their parents sang songs, played games and enjoyed a Thanksgiving celebration and meal with their German counterparts.



Photo by Michael Taylor

Col. R. Kirk Lawrence, 69th ADA Brigade commander, Giebelstadt Mayor, Paul Merklein, and two boys light the Geibelstadt Christmas tree Dec. 3.

Tree lighting ceremonies bring light to 417th BSB

The holiday charm and glitter came early to the 417th Base Support Battalion communities as each held Christmas tree lighting ceremonies during the first week of December.

An abundance of young

and old voices serenaded the ceremonies with the sounds of Christmas carols.

A visit from Santa and Mrs. Clause and the lighting of the Christmas trees helped set the tempo for the upcoming holiday season.



Photo by Larry Reilly

Girl and Boy Scouts from the Kitzingen community sing Christmas carols during the tree lighting ceremony held on Harvey Barracks Dec. 6.



Santa and Mrs. Claus hand out candy canes during the Wuerzburg tree lighting ceremony on Leighton Barracks Dec. 2.

Photo by Rebecca Sharpton



Photo by Larry Reilly

Two members of the 1st Infantry Division Band perform a skit during a reception held after the Kitzingen tree lighting ceremony.



Community In Briefs

Community banks set training

Training requirements for community banking employees will cause the normal operating hours for the community banks within the 417th BSB to alter.

On Dec. 17, the Harvey and Larson Barracks banking facilities will open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 355-8767 or (09321) 3058767.

Community Roundtable

The Army Community Service will host the community roundtable meeting on Dec. 16 at 9 a.m. in the Cantigny Club conference room on Leighton Barracks.

For more information, call 350-7103 or (0931) 8897103.

Red Cross classes set

The American Red Cross will offer a Volunteer Orientation session Dec. 18, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Hospital ARC.

There will be a CPR/First Aid class Dec. 11 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in building 16 on Leighton Barracks.

There will be an American Red Cross CPR/FA/AED class on Dec. 20 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in building 16 on Leighton Barracks.

A Healthy Pregnancy, Healthy Baby series of classes will start Jan. 8 and continue to March 11. The classes will be held on Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Labor and Delivery section at the Wuerzburg Hospital. For more information, call the Leighton ARC office at 350-1760 or (0931) 8891760 or the Larson ARC office at 355-2478 or (09321) 7022478.

Yellow Ribbon Room to open

The 417th Base Support Battalion Directorate of Public Works will officially open the Yellow Ribbon Room on Leighton Barracks Dec. 19 at 9 a.m..

The facility will provide family readiness groups a place to hold meetings, Internet connections, a multipurpose room, a children's play area and a full kitchen. For more information, call 350-7103 or (0931) 889-7103

417th BSB holiday party set

The 417th Base Support Battalion will host its annual holiday party on Dec. 13 at the Centre Court on Harvey Barracks starting at 5 p.m. Santa will arrive at 7 p.m. For more information, call 355-1530 or (09321) 3051530.

Help your child succeed

The 417th BSB, Army Community Services Special Needs Support Group will sponsor the Tools to Help Your Child be Successful session. The class will be held at the Leighton Barracks ACS, building 14, on Jan. 15 at 6:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be Liz Kelley. For more information, call 350-7103 or (0931) 889-7103.

New Year's scrap, bowling night

Attend New Year's Eve scrap booking and bowling event at the Marshall Heights Bowling Center from 9:30 p.m. until 1 a.m. Hosted by family members of Co. B, 121st Signal Battalion, the event will cost \$15, which includes materials, refreshments, party favors and one game of bowling. For more infor-

mation, call Jodi Cauch at (09321) 388803.

Classes prepare families for upcoming deployment

The 98th ASG Family Life Chaplain, the 417th BSB Chaplains and the 417th BSB ACS will provide a series of classes and training sessions for soldiers and their families in preparation for the upcoming deployment.

The first Thursday of each month, a Reunion and Reintegration session will be held at 1 p.m. in the Leighton Chapel.

Each Sunday from 4 p.m. to 5:15 p.m., the series Hidden Keys to Loving Relationships will be held at the Leighton Chapel.

On Jan. 8, the class Identify the Threat: Overcome Obstacles will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Leighton Chapel.

On Jan. 15, the class Execute the Plan: Practice Effective Couple Communication will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Leighton Chapel.

On Jan. 22, the class Rally Your Family Forces for Success will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Leighton Chapel.

On Jan. 29, the class Secure the Children: Practice Effective Ways to Prepare your child for Change will be held 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Leighton Chapel.

Free childcare is provided on site during most of the classes. For more information, call 350-1570/7273 or (0931) 8891570/7273.

ACS December offerings

Financial classes

The following classes are geared toward increasing participant's knowledge in financial matters.

The classes include:
Managing your deployment entitlements, Dec. 10, 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Larson Barracks, building 94,
December Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), Dec. 17, 2 p.m.

to 3:30 p.m. at the Giebelstadt Army Airfield building 609.

Computer classes

The following classes will be held at the Leighton ACS office in building 14

from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Introduction to Word, Dec. 16-18, Intermediate Excel, Dec. 22-24, and Introduction to Power Point Dec. 29-31.

For more information concerning ACS classes, call 350-7103 or (0931) 889-7103.

Community In Briefs

G/A Christmas service set

The 417th Base Support Battalion Chaplain's office will co-host with the Kitzingen Lutheran Church a German/American Friendship Christmas service at the yellow church in downtown Kitzingen on Dec. 14 at 5 p.m. There will be a fellowship gathering after the service. For more information, call 350-1570 or (0931) 8891570.

Angel tree ready

The Military Council of Catholic Women invites you to participate in this year's Angel Tree Project. The tree will be set up in the Leighton Barracks Chapel. The ornaments are labeled by gender and age to make selection of the gift easier. Please return the unwrapped gifts with the angel ornament taped to the gift to the chapel by Dec. 7. If you wish to donate an unwrapped gift for a child, please drop the donation at the chapel by Dec. 17. For more information, call Lisa Dusterhoff at (01609) 2829104.

Giebelstadt town hall set

The Giebelstadt Army Airfield town hall meeting is set for Dec. 18 at 6 p.m. in the theater. For more information, call 352-7653 or (09337) 877653.

CMRs open on Saturdays

The 417th BSB Community Mail Rooms (CMR) will be open on Saturdays until the Christmas weekend. The Larson Barracks, Harvey Barracks, and Giebelstadt Army Airfield CMRs will be open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Leighton Barracks CMR will be open from noon to 2 p.m. For more information, call 355-8841 or (09321) 3058841.

Post offices set holiday hours

The post office on Harvey Barracks will be open Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon. The post office on

Leighton Barracks will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information,

care of on Dec. 20 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost for this service will be \$12 per child and must be prepaid by Dec. 17. The service is available for children ages six weeks to 12 years old who are registered with CYS. Lunch is included in the price. For more information, call 355-2876 or (09321) 7022876.

Craft Cottage job offer

The Craft Cottage is looking for a new manager. Applications are available at the shop. The Craft Cottage is located in building 658 on the Giebelstadt Army Airfield.

For more information call 352-7492 or (09334) 877492.

MPs offer road condition line

The 417th BSB Provost Marshal Office will be offering a road condition telephone line during the upcoming winter months. For road conditions in the Kitzingen Community, call 355-8977 or (09321) 3058977. For road conditions in the Giebelstadt and Wuerzburg Communities, call 350-7163 or (0931) 8897163. To find out

information on school closures and road conditions tune your radio to 104.9 FM or 1143 AM.

Giebelstadt hosts TUCC

The tactical unit commander conference will be held at the Red Baron Club on the Giebelstadt Army Airfield Dec. 11 at 12:30 p.m. A no host luncheon prior to the meeting will start at 11:30 a.m. The meeting is a quarterly gathering for unit commanders and the 417th BSB staff to share information on activities and events in the Giebelstadt Community.

For more information, call 352-7653 or (09337) 877653.

Red Cross brings Santa Claus

The American Red Cross will host photos with Santa Claus fundraiser sessions Dec. 13 & 14 at the Leighton Barracks Post Exchange inside the Toyland.

For more information, call 350-1760 or (0931) 8891760.



Photo by Larry Reilly

Commanding the airwaves

The 417th Base Support Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Thomas Fass, gets his microphone adjusted by Jacques Bannamon before going on the air at the AFN radio station on Leighton Barracks in Wuerzburg, Dec. 2. The commander talked about many events and activities going on within the BSB.

call 355-7169/8725 or (09321) 3057169/8725.

CFC Campaign winds down

The Combined Federal Campaign is nearing its end date of Dec 10. Contributions to CFC can still be made by contacting Tony Denham, 417th BSB, S-1. For information or to donate, call 355-8372 or (09321) 3058372.

Jazzy Holiday event set

The Wuerzburg Community Spouses Club will host its monthly luncheon on Dec. 18 at 11:30 a.m. in the Cantigny Club on Leighton Barracks. The December luncheon will include the entertaining talents of the Wuerzburg American High School Jazz Band. For more information, call Clara Neal at (0931) 4676556.

CYS offers parents day out

The 417th BSB Child and Youth Services program will offer parents an opportunity to get some shopping done and know their children are being taken